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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3128
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS
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SIPDIS

FOR WHA/BSC, WHA/EPSC AND OES/IHB
FOR MED
FOR DS/IP/WHA
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: VENEZUELA REPORTS THREE CONFIRMED H1N1 CASES

¶1. On May 28, via a press release on its website (www.mpps.gob.ve), the Venezuelan Ministry of Health (MoH) confirmed the first case of H1N1 in Venezuela. According to the press release, the individual, a male of 22 years, returned May 25 from a five day trip to Panama and subsequently checked into a private clinic, which, upon evaluation of his symptoms, initiated the chain of diagnosis, notification, and testing that led to the MoH's confirmation of H1N1. On May 29, a subsequent MoH press release confirmed a second H1N1 case, a 24 year old female who had traveled on the same flight as the first patient (Copa Airlines Flight 221 from Panama.) The second patient, according to the MoH press release, had "high risk contact" with the first confirmed case. Press reports indicate that she is the girlfriend of the first confirmed patient. In addition, the media has reported a human to human transmission, that of a relative of the first patient confirmed with H1N1. All three confirmed cases are reported to be stable and under strict medical surveillance and confinement.

¶2. Post's EAC met to review the situation on May 29 and has determined that we remain at tripwire one.

CAULFIELD